

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

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FOR AGRICULTURE ERS/ FDCD FROM VANKAI

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN CROP AND LIVESTOCK SITUATION

1. RELYING ON PRELIMINARY DATA, ROMANIAN OFFICIALS ESTIMATED THAT 1973 SOWN AREA OF GRAIN WILL BE APPROXIMATELY SAME AS 1972. SOYBEAN AREA INCREASED BY 30 PERCENT AND THAT OF SOME OTHER INDUSTRIAL CROPS, SUCH AS SUGARBEETS, TOBACCO AND FIBER FLAX, INCREASED ALSO.

2. WINTER BARLEY HARVEST WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN LAST WEEK OF JUNE, WHEAT HARVEST IN JULY. BECAUSE WINTER GRAIN SOWING A MONTH BEHIND OPTIMAL SOWING DATES, AND BECAUSE TOO MUCH SPRING PRECIPITATION PRODUCED FLOOD AND GROUND WATER DAMAGES IN SOME AREAS, IT DOUBTFUL THAT LAST YEAR'S HARVEST WILL BE MATCHED. OUTLOOK FOR SPRING-SOWN CROPS IS BETTER. WHEAT IS PREDOMINATELY WINTER GRAIN, 60 PERCENT OF BARLEY IS USUALLY SOWN IN FALL, RYE IS INSIGNIFICANT.

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3. EFFORTS TO INCREASE CROP YIELDS FOCUSSED ON IRRIGATION. ACCORDING TO PLANS, HALF OF ARABLE LAND SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH IRRIGATION FACILITIES BY 1980. YIELDS ALSO TO BE INCREASED THROUGH IMPROVED VARIETIES, BETTER MECHANIZATION, AND GREATER FERTILIZER USE. HOWEVER, NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FERTILIZER USE IS EXPECTED DURING 1973.

4. STATE FARMS HAVE OWN MACHINERY BUT MOST COLLECTIVES RELY ON MACHINE STATIONS FOR HEAVY MACHINERY. ONE OF TASKS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS EVALUATION OF EFFICIENCY IN MACHINE USE. IN VIEW OF LIMITED SUPPLY, IT DID NOT SEEM FEASIBLE TO SELL ALL KINDS OF MACHINERY TO EVERY FARM. USE OF DRAFT ANIMALS AND MANUAL HOEING WERE WIDELY VISIBLE DURING FIELD TRIP.

5. OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTED INCREASE IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND PRODUCTION TO INCREASED SPECIALIZATION AND LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION. INTEGRATION OF HOG AND POULTRY OPERATIONS AT SEVERAL FARMS IS IN PROGRESS AND INTEGRATION OF DAIRY FARMING IS PLANNED. HOG AND POULTRY TRUSTS WERE CREATED TO COORDINATE BREEDING, FEEDING AND MARKETING. INTEGRATION IS PRESENTLY WIDESPREAD FOR POULTRY BUT CONSTANTLY INCREASING FOR HOGS.

6. MIXED FOOD INDUSTRY IS GROWING AND, WITH IT, USE OF PROTEIN IN TOTAL FOOD CONSUMED. SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS BEGAN ONLY IN 1971 AND WILL CONTINUE AS SOYBEAN MEAL BECOMES AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT OF FEED MIXTURE.

7. OFFICIALS IN KOOSPOL (FOREIGN TRADING COMPANY) SAID THAT ABOUT 500,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 400,000 TONS OF CORN WERE EXPORTED IN 1972. EGYPT WAS PRINCIPAL IMPORTER OF WHEAT; ITALY OF CORN; CEMA COUNTRIES WERE OTHER IMPORTERS.

8. IN LONG RUN ROMANIANS WOULD PREFER EXPORT HIGHER VALUE PROCESSED MEAT RATHER THAN GRAINS. NONETHELESS, THEY ARE CONFIDENT OF FINDING A MARKET FOR SURPLUS GRAIN OF UP TO THREE MILLION TONS IF LIVESTOCK INVENTORY DOES NOT INCREASE AT SAME RATE AS AVAILABILITY OF DOMESTIC

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GRAIN FOR FEED. CONCERN WAS VOICED ABOUT HIGH PRICE OF SOYBEAN MEAL, WHICH IS NOT YET REFLECTED IN PRICES OF MIXED FEED SUPPLIED TO FARMS.

9. HOG SHELTERS WERE OFF LIMIT TO VISITORS, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF CONCERN ABOUT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE. IT IS KNOWN THAT DISEASE TOOK ITS TOLL DURING FALL AND WINTER,

BUT ITS DURATION AND SEVERITY WERE NOT DISCLOSED. BASED ON HUNGARIAN EXPERIENCE, A DECREASE IN HOG NUMBERS DURING 1973 IS PROBABLE.

10. A VISIT TO THE FUNDULEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WHICH COORDINATES ALL AGRONOMY RESEARCH, REVEALED SUCCESS IN CREATING A HYBRID DROUGHT RESISTANT CORN. THERE ALSO APPEAR TO BE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING CORN WITH HIGH LYSIN CONTENT. DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF A HIGH YIELDING SUNFLOWER VARIETY WITH 50 PERCENT OIL CONTENT.

11. DIRECTOR OF THE AFUMATI STATE FARM (PROBABLY ONE OF MOST ADVANCED IN ROMANIA) QUOTED PLANS FOR 1980 (1972 RESULTS IN PARENTHESES):
HOG - 45-50,000 (30,000); SHEEP - 5,000 (5,000); CATTLE - 5,000 (3,000); OF WHICH COWS - 3,000 (1,400); BROILERS - 100,000 (100,000); PORK PRODUCTION - 48 TONS/100 HA/(24 TONS) 100 HA; BEEF PRODUCTION - 8 TONS/100 HA (4 TONS/100 HA); WHEAT PRODUCTION - 50 Q/ HA (40 Q/ HA); CORN PRODUCTION - 65 Q/ HA (60 Q/ HA). KLEIN

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